Closure of Bailadeela Iron-Ore Project in Chhattisgarh

†3777. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Bailadeela Iron-ore Project in Chhattisgarh, which is one of the few selected iron ore mines of the World, is on the verge of closure due to piling up of lakhs of tonnes of iron and slime;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 32 villages under the project area have been badly affected from water pollution due to piling up of lakhs of tonnes of Slime;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) the action Government have taken in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Losses in RSP

3778. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Rourkela Steel Plant has been making loss for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken and proposed to be taken to contain the loss ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The financial performance of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) for the last three years is as follows :

(Rs. in Crore)

Items	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
Gross Margin	5	—33	281
Interest	514	405	444
Cash Profit	—509	—438	—163
Depreciation	256	265	282
Net Profit	—765	—704	—445

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Following steps have been taken to contain losses :

> Intensive cost control drive.

> Implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for employees in 1998 and 1999 which separated 3820 employees.

> Market-oriented production and product-mix.

> Increasing sales net work, more focus on customer satisfaction etc.

> As a part of financial and Business Restructuring package, approved by Government in February, 2000, Captive Power Plant-II of RSP identified for divestment, has been divested, while steps are on to divest the Fertilizer Plant.

ST Status to Gaddies and Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh

3779. ' SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the report of expert bodies to grant scheduled tribe status to Gaddies and Gujjars of the areas merged with Himachal Pradesh has since been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some time-limit has been fixed for expert bodies to submit the report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details can not be disclosed in public interest.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The expert bodies conduct independent investigations, and no time limit has been fixed. However, they are requested to furnish their comments as early as possible.

Extension of 73rd and 74th Constitutional (Amendment) Act, 1992 to Hilly Scheduled Areas

3780. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are contemplating to extend the 73rd and 74th Constitution (Amendment) Act, 1992 to the hilly scheduled areas;